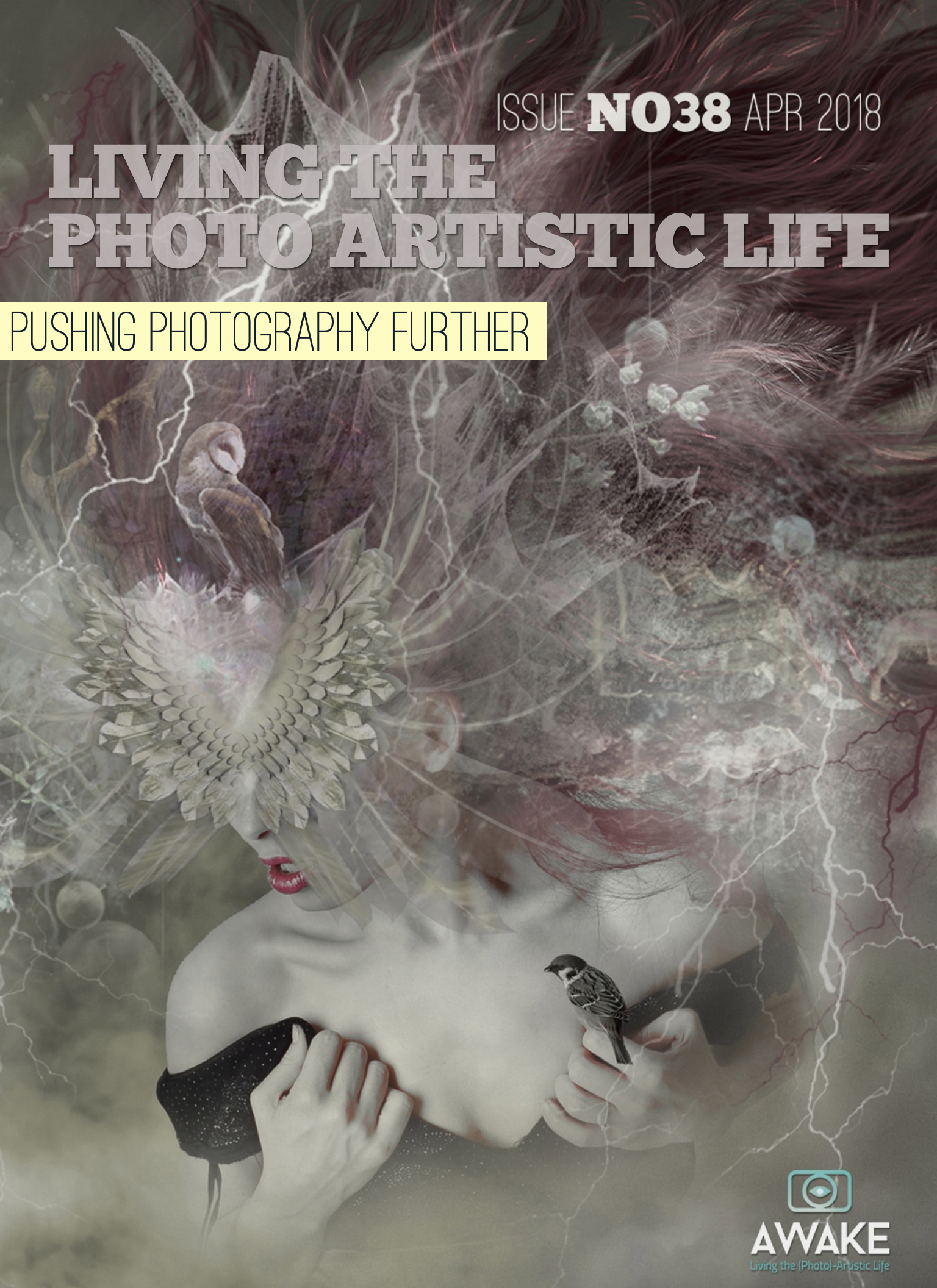
ISSUE NO38 APR 2018

LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

PUSHING PHOTOGRAPHY FURTHER



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Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life

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ALI OPPY

AWAKE
Living the (Photo)-Artistic Life

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

SEBASTIAN MICHAELS

One of the things I love about Asheville is just how many artists live here. This is an artsy town. And one of the places I love most is our River Arts District.

What used to be an old industrial part of the city just outside of downtown, alongside the French Broad River . . . is now home to over 200 local artists and an absolute sprawl of art studios of every kind.

My favorite studios are the ones you'll find nested here in big historic buildings. Several of these locations actually contain dozens of artist studios, some small, some large, some meticulous, most deliciously messy. And all of them just full to bursting with artistic talent.

There's something wonderful about all these artists working alongside one another, inspiring one another, sparking ideas off one another.

Which is of course one of the most wonderful things about our AWAKE artists, whose work you find featured here in the pages of this magazine each month.

Because, in a way, it's as if they too are all sharing a huge, sprawling studio space — one that sprawls not through one old building alongside a river but across hundreds of *cities,* dozens of *countries* around the world …

All the while remaining incredibly tight-knit and intimately connected.

In our private group, our artists will sometimes share photos of where they work. We'll get to see the desks and computers at which they craft their masterpieces. And each, to me, seems a room in our one grand and glorious shared studio.

Some meticulous, some messy, just as you would expect . . .

Every one of them much loved and cherished and put to great use.

I sometimes sit at night wondering about all the AWAKE artists around the world who might be at their desks at that very moment, twenty or fifty layers deep into an imaginative world all their own . . .

And I wish I could wander those halls and peek in on them, look over their shoulders, listen a little while to whatever music they have playing as they work, then slip out and on down to the next, and the next, and the next . . .

For this building is vast.

Hundreds of rooms. Hundreds? Heck, THOUSANDS of rooms.

And any time night or day, you will find artists at work here. Young and old, men and women, poets and dreamers and passionate creatives all — a thousand different visions and voices, yet engaged in something shared and extraordinary: all the shared wizardry of their exquisite and wondrous craft.

Any night of the week.

It's a hell of a fine place to be, I can tell ya.

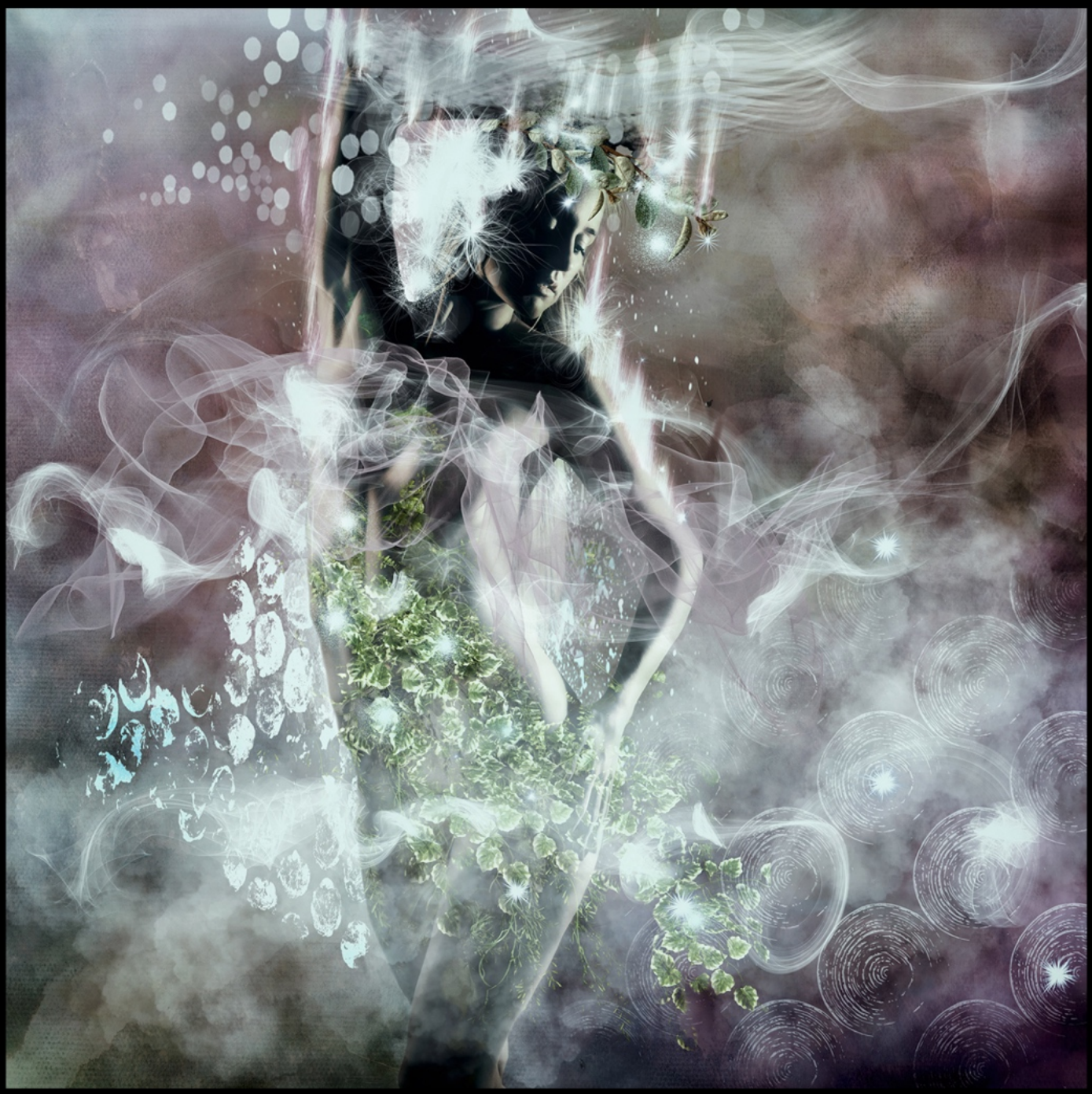
- Sebastian
https://QuillAndCamera.com

Image by Julie Denning (USA)
https://artboja.com/art/gx76x2/

Paint Me A Masterpiece

Dawn Spears
(England)

https://artboja.com/art/nav633/



Sleep Is the Best Meditation

Johanna Goudsblom
(New Zealand)

http://assetimagery.zenfolio.com/
http://artboja.com/art/13enw6/

Mystic Tree

Janet Sipl
(USA)

Siren

http://www.flickr.com/photos/janetsipl/

Sunday's Walk

Helga Blanke
(The Netherlands)

http://www.helganl.nl/

Sunny Rose

Forget Your Age

Beverly Everson
(USA)

http://www.eversonphotography.com/

The End of the Affair

Nicholas Sweet-Rogers
(UK)

She Was Drowning

https://artboja.com/art/f0j70z/

Times of Old

Leanne M Williams
(Australia)

Devastation

https://artboja.com/art/d0l9th/
https://www.facebook.com/leannemwilliamsimages/

http://www.imagocollectico.no/
https://artboja.com/art/1etkg2/

Vibeke Alvestad Johansen
(Norway)

Silenced

Vesta

Kristin Couch
(Sweden)

http://www.kcfotos.se/
http://www.artboja.com/stinacc

Makara

Dandelion

Donna Dean
(Canada)

http://www.donnadean.ca/

Summer Pinks

Traveling On a Train

Dale Botha
(Australia)

https://artboja.com/art/x1el96/

https://artboja.com/art/s7ovmw/

The White Siren

Anna Czekala
(France)

Volante

Sonia Pusey
(Australia)

Midnight

The Caravan

Lou Ann Donahue
(USA)

Mourning Time

https://artboja.com/art/hcghtr/

Losing My Marbles

Andrea Amos-Sebestyen
(Hungary)

Didn't Mean To

https://www.facebook.com/CarolineJuliaMoore/
https://artboja.com/art/4z2cq3/

Caroline Julia Moore
(UK)

Fire Fight

Thysje Arthur
(New Zealand)

Just You
and Me

http://www.tgagraphics.co.nz/
https://artboja.com/art/wpqa4m/

Not Lost

Gail Edwards
(Canada)

https://artboja.com/art/gvw704/

Floating Magnolia Blooms

Liberated

August Naude
(South Africa)

http://www.augustnaudephotography.com/
https://artboja.com/art/akrxnj/

Dornröschen -
A German Fairytale

Bila Bozem
(Germany)

https://artboja.com/art/8rn7ir/

The Embrace

Francine Malo
(Canada)

Little Joe Burger

https://artboja.com/art/eqme8c/

Alone with
the Moon

Karen Burns
(USA)

Gold Rush

http://www.karenburnsart.com/

Sunrise on the Pond

Jo Wilmot
(USA)

http://jowilmotartistry.com/

Clear Your Desk!

Sheri Emerson
(USA/Canada)

http://www.photoartbysheri.ca/
http://www.sheriemerson.com/

Flood

Waiting for Rehearsal

Viv Buckley
(Ireland)

http://www.vivbuckley.com/
http://www.artboja.com/art/xkk5gq/

Dancing in the Moonlight

Seed Shells No1

Michelle Mondragon
(USA)

http://www.mondragonphotoanddesign.com/
http://www.mdragonimagemaker.com/

Seed Shells No4

Featured Artist

Ali Oppy

Emerge

“ I’d like to invite viewers to join me and discover my **mystical and magical world** where I get totally lost in the entire process of my creations. ”

Autumn Breeze

Release Me

“ When i discovered **AWAKE** it was like a sudden transformation for my creativity. It opened my eyes and awakened my thoughts and visions. Now I see life and its beauty as an artistic creation. ”

Dance of Disguise

Faded
Flight

Voices

Calla

Ali Oppy

(New Zealand)

https://mystic-sparrow.pixels.com/
https://artboja.com/art/lzqpfy/

Lady in the Shadows

Bob Rude
(USA)

http://www.rebecahthompsondi.com/
https://www.artboja.com/art/qawqkh/

Ready to Dock

Rebecah Thompson
(USA)

Old Country Road

Dance in the Mist

Marjut Korhonen
(Finland)

Dreaming Beauty

https://artboja.com/art/ly66nh/

And She Rose

Bernie Tuffs
(UK)

https://artboja.com/art/utucc4/

Star Shower

Janice S. Batterbee
(Spain)

https://artboja.com/art/y1ogt4/

Holding On #2

Soumaya Schnur
(USA/Morocco)

https://artboja.com/art/utucc4/

Total Surrender

Untitled

Rahel Panski
(Israel)

After the Show

From Whence Cometh Evil (tūī)

Judi Lapsley Miller
(New Zealand)

https://www.artbyjlm.com/

Alice in Neverland

Lauren Martin
(USA)

http://paintedhandphotography.com/

Seaside Friends

Georgia Tielemans
(Canada)

https://stilllifephotoworks.com/

Dealing with the Past

Cultured

Jean Hutter
(USA)

http://www.jeanmhutter.com/
https://artboja.com/art/wh7jv6/

Sweet Airs

Growth

https://artboja.com/art/j98ilq/

Nancie Rowan
(USA)

Time Flies Over us, but
Leaves its Shadow Behind

Diana Gorski (Canada)

Old Church

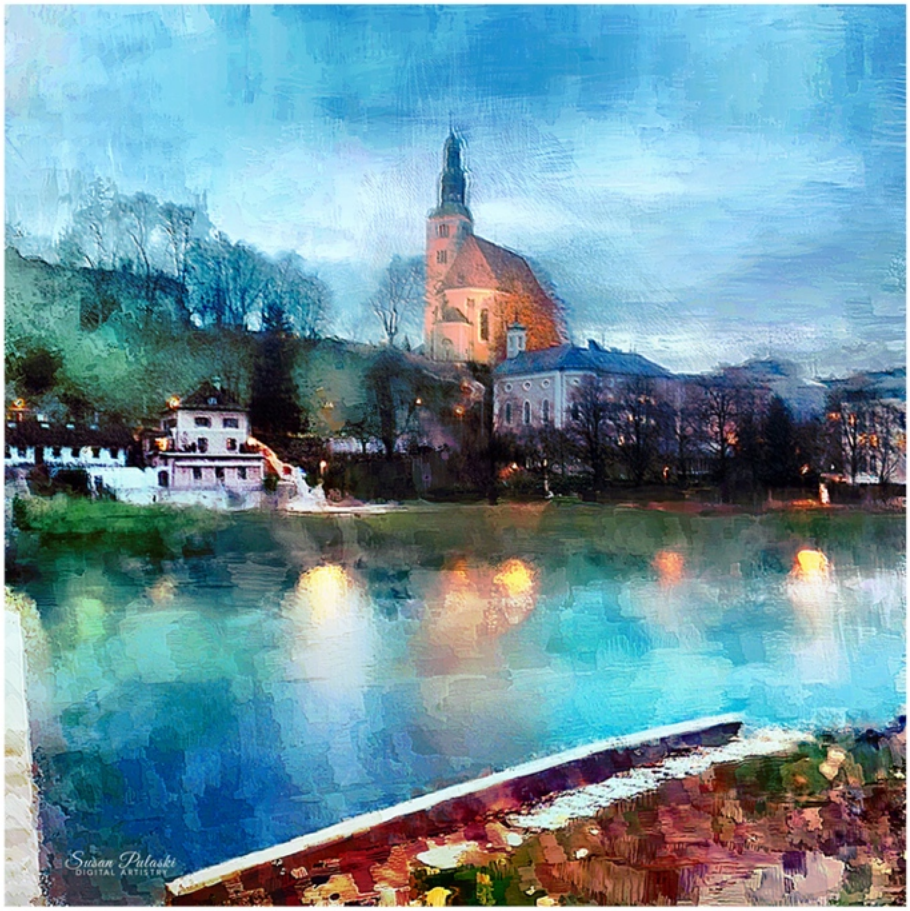
Craig Walters
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/76cexp/
https://www.craigwaltersphotoartistry.com/

A Cold and Rainy Night

Cindy Collier Harris
(USA)

http://creativearts.artistwebsites.com/
http://artboja.com/art/gxi8c2



Salzburg, Austria

Susan Pulaski
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/6ejfke

Brave Soul

Village End

Laurie Baker
(USA)

Brother Crow

https://artboja.com/art/rqb7zp/

Who Left the Water Running?

Catherine King
(USA)

http://www.ckingfineart.com/

Hania - Spirit Warrior

Jeff Valdez
(USA)

http://artboja.com/art/pemm4v/

Naptime

Dave Hattori
(USA)

http://www.davehattoriphotoart.com/
https://artboja.com/art/fhfufs/

Agave and
Prickly Pear

A Little Night Music

The Dark Queen

Darren Herlihy
(USA)

https://herlihdb.wixsite.com/darren

Perfect Landing

Lou Ann Goodrich
(USA)

High Desert Wolf

http://louanngoodrich-photoartist.com/
http://artboja.com/art/sheqeg

Chained Down on Belief Island

Codie Moore
(USA)

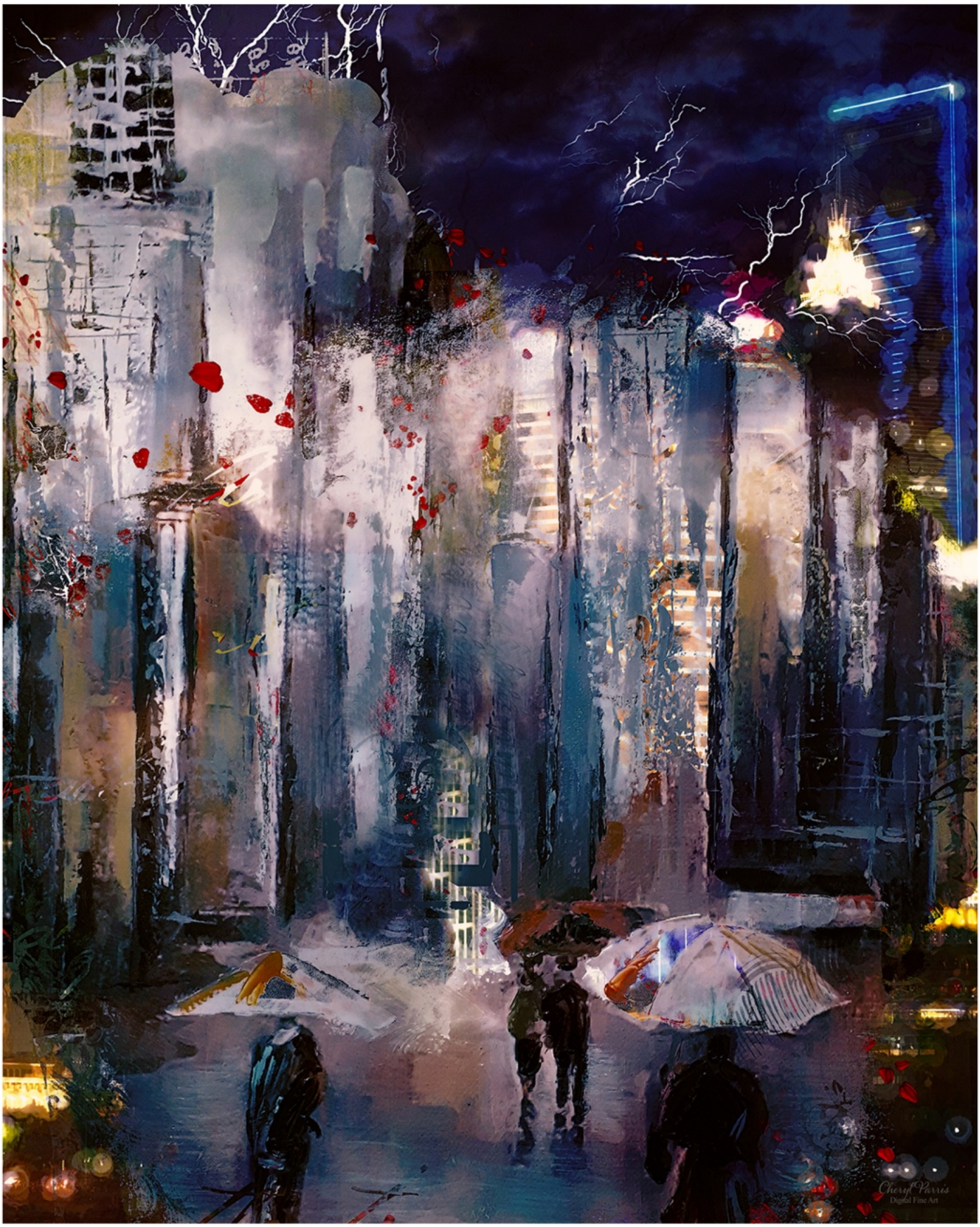
http://www.codiemoore.com/
http://www.artboja.com/art/w3juh4

Butterfly Bride

Amelia Blanco
(Cuba)

http://www.ameliablanco.com/
http://www.ameliabdigitalartistry.com/

Holding Back



Rainy Night in the City

Cheryl Parris
(USA)

http://www.cherylparrisphotography.com/

In My Finery

Ilene Sokol
(USA)

Magical

TD Matthews
(USA)

Gypsy

http://www.500px.com/tmphotoman

To Let

Catherine Blan
(UK)

Phoenix
Rising

https://www.behance.net/dollycathy
https://artboja.com/art/316xid/

Lady Butterfly

Sue Masterson
(Australia)

Skin Deep

Andy Dench
(Canada)

Treasures of
the Deep

Rudbeckia

Merrilee Soberg
(Canada)

https://artboja.com/art/p41f0u/

The Debate

ALBaMass
(Australia)

https://artboja.com/art/nsthnn/
https://www.normonie.de/galerien/galerie-albamass/

Secrets in
the Sky

Barbara Mierau-Klein
(USA)

The Blue
Umbrella

http://www.barbaramierauklein.com/
https://artboja.com/art/0xmo9f/

Clown Tres Triste 2

Julie Powell
(Australia)

Kitsune Spirit

http://www.juliepowellphotography.com/

The Carousel

Jim Laskowicz
(USA)

http://artboja.com/art/kghhxj

Wet Night

Ann Lavin
(Australia)

https://artboja.com/art/d6au4o/

The Pier — Richard Strange (England)

The Right Door

Ruffled Ballet — Shelley Benjamin (USA)

Sinuous

https://artboja.com/art/w6ytal/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/benshell/

Claudia with Owl

WayneToTheMax
(USA)

http://www.waynetothemax.com/

Shy Little Guy...

Preston Moochnek
(USA)

http://www.photosbypreston.com/

Swamp Magic

Louise Campbell
(Australia)

Spring
Water

http://www.facebook.com/DigitDesignStudio
https://artboja.com/art/uaoyol/

The Perch

Summer Rhapsody

Nina Irvin
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/3whzmg/

Nobility Princess

Barbara A Lane
(USA)

http://www.barbaraalane.com/
https://artboja.com/art/y36pod/

Bride Dance

Ingrid Pomeroy
(USA)

A Torn Fairytale

http://www.annwehnerdigitalartistry.com/

Ann Wehner
(Australia)

Bereaved

Boots

Sherri Reed (USA)

Nut Hatch

http://www.sherrireedstudios.com/
https://www.artboja.com/art/xsw5rq/

Lookin’ Back

Sheila Tennes
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/1vr8iu/
https://www.flickr.com/photos/sheilatennes/

Streets of
Havana

Ray Kingsbury
(USA)

http://www.rk2studio.com/

Non La

Pier Reflection

Bruce Cook
(USA)

http://www.balancookphotography.com/

Elegant Lady

Vivien Jane Capper
(Italy)

https://artboja.com/art/6bn7zq/

The Docks Paula D Powers (USA)

Winter Tree

https://artboja.com/art/2gjypg/
http://www.pauladpowers.com/

7th Avenue

Pam Henderson
(Australia)

https://www.facebook.com/snapnshootdesigns/
https://artboja.com/art/dmfi9d/

Little Blue Heron Walter G. Carlson (USA)

Roseate Spoonbill https://artboja.com/art/bibaou/

Mother Nature

Nancy Brizendine (USA)

Callie

https://www.artboja.com/art/wi7y8e/
https://www.facebook.com/nbrizphotoart

Neve

Rochelle Marshall
(New Zealand)

After the Ball

Margaret Rainey
(UK)

https://www.mmrainey.com/
https://artboja.com/art/mi33r9/

There once was a child
who was given an old
red book. Little did they
realise this book would
take them into another world
where anything is possible where
the only limits are your imagination

The Little Reader Marian Child (UK)

Stranded Genie http://www.moxydigitalartist.co.uk/

Take Me to the Moon Jacqueline Sajewski (USA)

The Grist Mill

Swinging Free

Pat Sierra
(South Africa)

Running Late!

Michelle Drummond (New Zealand)

Unexpected Timing

http://enchanted-reality.blogspot.co.nz/
https://www.facebook.com/Whimiscal.Imagery/

Prince Charming

Barbara Dudzinska
(Australia)

http://smartartplace.com/
https://artboja.com/art/7qn7s6/

Giraffe Mum With Baby

Ilona Abou-Zolof
(Australia)

http://www.ilonaabouzolof.com/
https://www.zolof.net/

Framed

http://www.eduardo-llerandi.pixels.com/

Eduardo Llerandi
(USA)

The Old World

In A Dream

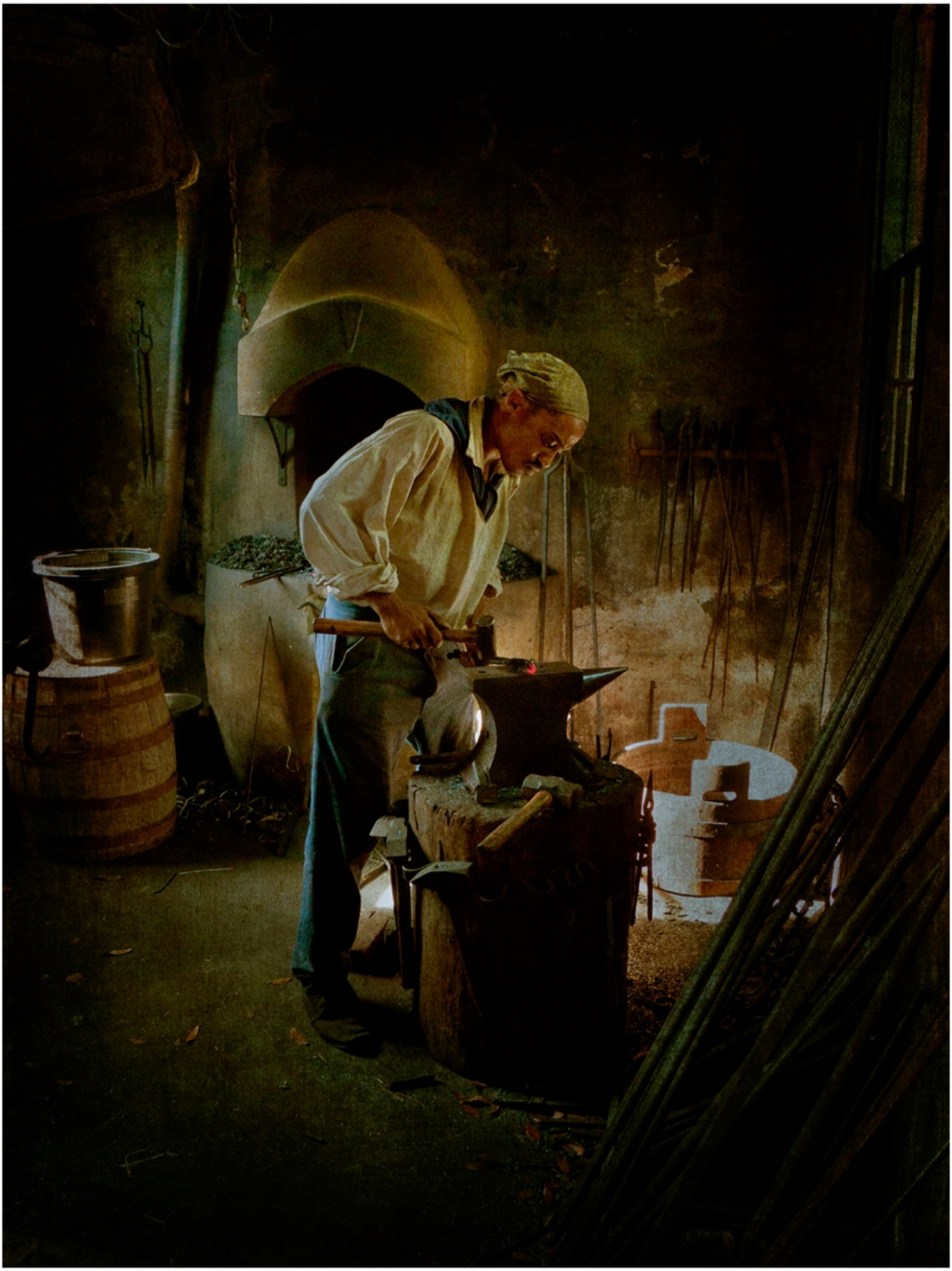
RaNae Ravan
(USA)

The Timekeeper

Serendipity

Phil Clark
(USA)

https://artboja.com/art/63a1fk/



Blacksmith at Work

Susan Bailey
(USA)

http://www.susanbailey.smugmug.com/

Meerkat Moon

Nicole Wilde
(USA)

A Walk in the Woods

http://www.photomagicalart.com/

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

"AWAKE" : LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

Amanda Rockwell

http://www.brushworkshop.com

A professional designer with ScrapbookGraphics, Amanda Rockwell creates fantastic content for the AWAKE and KAIZEN groups. But I think her greatest contribution is in encouraging digital artists to get away from their screens and break out the art supplies now and then and actually have fun creating their own custom brushes.

Anna Aspnes

http://annaaspnesdesigns.com

Again and again in the work of my top students I was seeing one name turn up constantly when they were citing the source of the artistic content in their work: Anna Aspnes. When I visited her website I was stunned, and when I saw her work in *Somerset Digital Studio* magazine I knew that this was a talent I needed on my team.

Caroline Julia Moore

https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/CarolineJuliaMoore

Over the past two years, I've watched as the immensely talented Caroline Julia Moore shifted from cognitive neuropsychologist to full-time self-employed artist and conceptual photographer … all while also launching a successful content-design business. Her contributions to the group have been a delight and an inspiration.

Cheryl Tarrant

http://www.distressedtextures.net

Cheryl Tarrant is the brilliant creator behind the superb iPhone app Distressed FX and the immensely popular content design studio Distressed Textures. In looking at her artwork, one can't but wonder if her images are paintings or photographs. And her textures are simply divine. We're very lucky to have her working with us as a designer!

Denise Love
http://2lilowls.com

The textures and backgrounds from 2 Lil' Owls are some of the finest in the digital art industry, and indeed many of the works in this magazine feature Denise's textures — often several in one piece. Without question the photo-artistic community is so much the richer for the love and care Denise brings to her designs.

Foxeysquirrel
http://www.foxeysquirrel.com

Immensely popular (and stunningly prolific), Foxeysquirrel is the name by which artist Teddi Rutschman is known around the world. Her artistic design kits bring together a wide range of styles — from the enchanted and purely whimsical to classic illustration, from the exquisitely ornate to elements with touches of dreamlike old world mastery.

itKuPiLLi
http://www.mischiefcircus.com/

itKuPiLLi is the rather unusual name donned by Kirsi Rouvinen, the celebrated digital artist from Finland. The itKuPiLLi Imagenarium at MischiefCircus.com is a source for whimsical digital goodies, and the content Kirsi creates for our KAIZEN group is always greeted with excitement and enthusiasm.

Jai Johnson
http://www.DailyTexture.com

Jai Johnson is a fine artist and the acclaimed designer behind "The Daily Texture." Time and again when a work of digital artistry caught my eye, I'd find Jai's name listed in the credits as the texture designer. It took some time to get her, but I'm extremely excited to now have Jai an active member of our KAIZEN design team.

Jen Maddocks
http://jenmaddocks.com

When some students introduced me to the work of Jen Maddocks, I was quite knocked flat. Here was a digital content creator who was as fabulous an artist as she was a designer. We are lucky to have her in our community and MORE than lucky to have her material and tutorials here in "AWAKE" and "KAIZEN."

Jill Catrinel
http://curiousandcultivated.com/

Jill Catrinel works out of her art studio just north of Asheville, making her one of the few designers here quite close to me. Her work is fresh and inspired, and it's exciting to look ahead to everything I will be able to coordinate with her as the projects in the "KAIZEN" group evolve over the year ahead.

Julie Mead
https://e-scapeandscrap.net

It's always exciting to see creative success stories, and Julie Mead has certainly become one! She stepped into the digital content scene not long ago it seems, but rapidly brought on a bunch of great designers (and of course created a wonderful stream of original content herself). We're lucky to have her on our team!

Kim Klassen
http://kimklassen.com

Kim Klassen was one of the very first truly world-class artists I had the immense privilege of working with when I first launched the original Photoshop Artistry course. It was her textures (and her photography) that first caught my attention. Only later did I realized how wonderful she is as a teacher as well.

CONTRIBUTING DESIGNERS

"AWAKE" : LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

Michelle Mondragon

http://mondragonphotoanddesign.com/

Recently we've brought on the talented photographer and artist Michelle Mondragon as part of our team (though she prefers to think of herself as a "creative"). She has been providing a steady stream of extraordinary content for our AWAKE artists to use in their compositions. We are beyond excited to have her with us.

Rebecca McMeen

http://www.rebeccamcmeen.com/

Joining our team just this year, Rebecca McMeen has proven a tremendous hit with her extraordinary material, all of it so rich and complex, whimsical and artistic. Her unique style has made for a fantastic addition to the library of content our artists are now able to employ, and the resulting creations are endlessly charming.

Tangie Baxter

https://shoptangiebaxter.com/

Tangie Baxter is the lead artist of her own wildly successful design company with over a decade spent as dedicated “purveyors of digital art journaling supplies.” Her material is quirky and fun, and always a delight. Bringing her onto our team was a big event for us. Everything here got a lot more exciting with her arrival!

The Colby Files

http://www.thecolbyfiles.com/

The Colby Files is the intriguing moniker of a celebrated professional photographer located in Scottsdale, Arizona, specializing in female portraits, fashion art, model portfolios and fine art nudes. He has become our resident pro model photographer, providing an amazing library of images for our artists to work with when creating their masterpieces.

(It's pronounced "Art Bo-Ya." And it's where you'll find a world of stunning original art awaiting you.)

Explore the Stunning Artwork
of the AWAKE Artists Further at:
https://ArtBoja.com/
Background Image Credit:
Cherry Hammons (USA)
https://artboja.com/art/255svz/

LIVING THE PHOTO ARTISTIC LIFE

PUSHING PHOTOGRAPHY FURTHER

INTERESTED IN CREATING PHOTO ART OF YOUR OWN?
GET STARTED HERE:
HTTP://PROPHOTOSHOPARTISTRY.COM

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